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The LABOUR ORGANISER

**Edited by
H. DRINKWATER**

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**WITH
AN INDEX
for
TWO
EVENTFUL
YEARS**

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ESTABLISHED 1920

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FIXING THE DATE OF A GENERAL ELECTION

The report of the Committee on Electoral Machinery (referred to again elsewhere) contains a paragraph from which we extract the following:

"It would be difficult to time a post-war General Election and avoid with any certainty its synchronising with heavy population movement. It is, moreover, undesirable that the timing of a General Election should be forced to depend upon such extraneous circumstances; and it ought to be possible to hold it whenever the national interest requires."

Just so; but who is to decide that point of "national interest"? In nine cases out of ten the Premier in power finds the "national interest" coincides with his own. And what is to prevent a repetition of this evil (and that comparatively soon), war or no war, now that the machinery is here?

The report states that "all members of the Committee have expressed opinions strongly deprecating the occurrence of a General Election in war-time." So have we, and we hope the report will be noted in the proper quarter.

The Committee, however, proceed, as we ourselves did two years ago, to offer recommendations should events precipitate an election. Additionally to the fundamental objections we ourselves enumerated to taking an election in war-time, if the event could possibly be avoided, the Committee can now add the possibility of interference with an Election by enemy action.

There remains, however, the "Labour Organiser" suggestion of fixing the date of the election, so preventing anybody from manipulating a situation. The U.S.A. does this. Has our great ally nothing to teach us even in 1943?

It seems to us that if the date of the election were fixed (only to be deferred in the face of immediate and urgent national peril) for say, May, 1944 (or if military considerations make a winter date preferable, November of that year), then certain problems which the Committee anticipate solve themselves.

Is it seriously contended that this Parliament will prolong its life beyond that date? Or that the military situation will make a much earlier one possible?

Fixing the date would dispose of a trick election; it would offer a fair field to all Parties; war or no war, certain moves of population might be avoided; and war, or no war, we should at least have a Parliament, if only (as seems desirable) a very short-lived one, fresh from the people and with a mandate which certainly the present Parliament hasn't got.

WE REGRET that the inclusion of a 4pp. index in this issue compels the holding over of much useful matter (including the rest of Coventry L.P. proposals on Regional Local Government).

ELECTORAL MACHINERY

A Peep at the Committee Report

As briefly announced in our last issue, the Home Office Committee on Electoral Machinery has now reported, and its 48 pp. report (Cmd. 6408, price 9d.) is of particular importance to our readers.

The Committee consisted of sixteen persons, with a Civil Service secretary, and was drawn equally from the three political Parties plus officials representative of the Departments concerned. Six M.P.s sat upon the committee, also the National Agents of the three Parties.

Labour representatives were Mr. W. Glenvil Hall, M.P., Mr. G. Garro Jones, M.P., and the National Agent (Mr. G. R. Shepherd).

The terms of reference were as follow:—

"To consider whether for effecting the purposes of the present system of electoral registration improved methods and machinery can be devised, having regard especially to the circumstances likely to obtain in the period following the termination of hostilities;

"and to examine the technical problems involved in any scheme of redistribution of Parliamentary seats by way of preparation for consideration of the principles on which any scheme should be based . . ."

The first thing that strikes one is the ambiguity of the first reference. It seems to us that what follows after the comma, can be read either as a special additional direction or emphasis, or as a total limitation of the exploration of the Committee. In other words, did the Committee have power to examine and report upon improved methods and machinery appertaining to Electoral Registration as a whole, or only in so far as affected by "circumstances," etc.?

The Committee does not report any discussions or decisions that clear up this point. It appears rather tamely to have accepted the limitation, and to have thus condoned, and been equally guilty of, an offence against the English language.

That ambiguous sentence *might* have meant something else, and something far wider. And is there not great cause for a full examination of

the whole machinery of registration, and of elections, too, all which is cumbersome, out-dated and simply shouts for revision?

The Committee has missed a chance of saying something there, and the Labour members don't say it, either, in their minority reservation, confined to one point (i.e., Redistribution).

Labour recently has been condemning the whole gamut of Local Government largely, it appears, because it is 50 years old; and yet it accepts machinery which is three score years and ten old, plus another ten, and that would, in America, or elsewhere, be relegated to a museum, or laughed out of court!

When *shall* we have that enquiry into Electoral Reform, as a whole, at which the "Labour Organiser" has been hammering since 1929; and respecting which the Party appointed a sub-committee (of which the Editor is presumably still a member) as long ago as 1938?

That said, we turn to the Report, on which, within its accepted limitation, the Committee is to be congratulated for a painstaking piece of work, and to which, we know, the Labour members have contributed brains and hard work under very difficult circumstances.

Not that we accept the recommendations. Oh, dear, no. The Committee, and now we speak of it as a whole, appear to have had certain obsessions.

One of these (and one we cancel out ourselves presently) is that a Register of Electors takes a minimum of 4½ months from the end of the qualifying period, to prepare, and a *longer period still* if a canvass is required. Good Lord, this in 1942/3!

To Karl Marx is attributed the saying that "War is the locomotive of History." Yet despite 3½ years of war (and this war, they say, is a revolution) it is calmly assumed (page 6 of the Report) that we can't prepare a register under nearly half a year! All we have to say to that is that it appears the revolution hasn't reached Britain yet; certainly not the Committee, either, which itself here speaks in language three score years and ten old,

plus another ten. New men must be found who *can* produce a register, if needed, and not in 4½ months but in one.

But by way of an instalment of revolution let us here say *we don't need a register*. We've got one, so why the dickens make a duplicate?

The next obsession of the Committee concerns this self-same register.

The Committee really makes two main recommendations on this matter (1) as to how an election might be held in post-war circumstances in the period before complete settlement; and (2) as to how an election might be held in war-time.

The proposals under (1) are to be found in Appendix A (with a Liberal minority reservation in Appendix B); and the proposals under (2) are to be found in Appendix C, accepted by all members of the Committee.

We shall summarise both proposals next month, but the point we wish to make here is that the war-time proposals entirely do away with the Register of Electors and depend upon the National Register. The other proposals are all laborious means for setting up a separate Register of Electors. And that fatal obsession fills page after page of the report.

Our own view is that with a National Register a separate Register of Electors is wholly unnecessary, an undue expense, and a device merely to keep voters *away* from the polling booth.

The Emergency proposals are the only revolutionary parts of the Report—and, naturally; for didn't they find birth in the "L.O."?

Gone is all the phoney business of residence, successive residence, "double-homing" and duplication, and quite a lot too of the risk of impersonation. The mass of disenfranchisement which hitherto has marked every General Election would not exist. In effect, the country would say to *every* man and *every* woman "come in and vote."

Now isn't this just the ideal our Party has always stood for—adult suffrage? though our under-age conscripts have yet to be considered and provided for—that, however, next month.

Why should Labour presume the need of a special voters' register, the cost, the risks and the injustices of it, when a National Register and a simple declaration does all?

This Committee can be revolutionary when it likes. In the proposals for more static times it actually cuts the qualifying period from three months to two months. That revolution broke some hearts, we suspect, but why a qualifying period at all, beyond freezing the Register once the date of Election is announced?

Why two months, when men and women are ordered (and if certain people have their way will continue to be ordered) two hundred miles from home at a minute's notice? No, sir, that won't do. A man's a man for a' that and a woman's a woman, too!

Labour must be firm on this point. The whole rigmarole of registration, is, as Bismarck said of blotting paper, an invention of the enemy. Now we have broken the ice and got adult suffrage in the emergency proposals, we should be fools and traitors to accept any less for a later period.

Labour, indeed, must be careful about this Report. It is not a Labour report, and doubtless Labour men on it had to conform to majority decisions as to the limitation of the Committee, and probably also its ability to go too far.

But Labour must formulate its plan. It must itself examine and put forward proposals for the guidance of the Party and its M.P.s. Drift means that the House will accept the Report and a great chance go by. Action means advance, and God knows the subject under notice is important enough. Dodgery dwells in all our elections, in all our registration methods—in the humbugging plans of the politicians to cheat and defeat the people.

Let Labour at any rate come clean.

[Next month we will print in extenso the main proposals, with further comment].

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES

LEICS.: Melton: Mr. R. W. Stevens, 141, Scraftoft Lane, Leicester (D.L.P. responsibility.)

YORKS.: Scarborough and Whitby.—Mr. Tom Hopperton, 579, Marton Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

CANDIDATURE WITHDRAWN

GRIMSBY.—Mr. J. R. Penistan. Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks. (D.L.P.)

THIS IS PERSONAL

Mr. J. T. Baxter, formerly personal assistant to the National Agent, has now been appointed to the newly-created post of District Organiser to the East Midlands region, the post carrying with it the secretaryship of the East Midlands Regional Council.

One of our first remembrances of Tom, was when actually under age—he looked only 17!—we met him conducting a Parliamentary election in Leicestershire as a full-time election agent! This was the Bosworth Division, of which Tom Baxter is a native, and in which he still lives.

Grinstead later claimed him as a full-time agent, the youngest in the country. Later he went to King's Norton, Birmingham. We were present at his appointment and again impressed by his courage and outlook. King's Norton is not an "easy" division, but it has yielded to the Party two capable District Organisers—George Morris, and now Tom Baxter.

In 1929 the area Tom takes over gave an almost solid block of Labour M.P.s. But now there is lost ground to be made up and much field cultivation. We wish our chum great success and we call all our old colleagues into the combination that *must* win.

December 31st saw the retirement of two old and esteemed Labour agents, viz., Ald. J. L. Prescott, J.P., of Leigh, and Ald. W. Withey, J.P., of Central Leeds.

We have already referred to Ald. Prescott's retirement. An old warrior, in at the early days, he had one of the longest records, and his personality, long years ago, indelibly impressed itself upon his people and his constituency.

Ald. Withey, who, we doubt not, only changes his sphere for more public work has, too, a fine record. An ex-Lord Mayor of Leeds, that distinction alone marks his civic worth and the high esteem of his fellow-citizens. And that post is no sinecure!

W. Withey has always exuded that agreeable atmosphere that makes it impossible not to "get on" with him. He was for some years an E.C. member of the Agents' Union. His colleagues wish him long life and happiness in retirement.

Coun. Cliff. Protheroe, who was recently appointed as District Organiser for the Eastern Counties region of the Labour Party, has for many years played an active part in the Labour and Trade Union Movement in South Wales. He has had experience in Local Government as a member of the Neath R.D.C., of which he was at one time Chairman.

Coun. Protheroe's Trade Union experience is varied: in addition to filling various offices, he was many years ago appointed by his workmates as a checkweigher. In the Labour Movement he has been successively chairman and then secretary of the Neath Constituency L.P. and for some years was the secretary of the Glamorgan Federation of Labour Parties. He was also a member of the Magisterial Bench.

We understand that his admirers in South Wales have expressed profound regret that he has left the district, but appreciate that his services to the wider Movement in the post he now occupies are bound to be of inestimable value to the Party.

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MENTIONS

Some months ago we penned a paragraph about Guildford and now we learn that the Borough is about to open its eighth Nursery School. The success of these schools has been largely due to the Chairman of the Nursery Schools Committee, Coun. Mrs. Croke. Mrs. Croke, by the way, was the first woman Councillor of Guildford and is of course Labour. Nearly 50 per cent. of the elementary school children take advantage of the school canteens, this also being largely a Labour triumph.

We understand that speakers' notes on a number of subjects are now available from the Fabian International Bureau, 11 Dartmouth Street, S.W.1 Price 3d. each, plus postage 2½d. The notes, though primarily intended for the use of speakers, nevertheless, provide a good deal of factual information of service to a large number of our readers. The services covered deal with "American Labour," "Great Britain and the U.S.A.," "Soviet Trade Unions," "Political System in the Soviet Union," and "Germany."

Labour Discussion Notes, published by the Socialist Clarity Group (price 4d.) now appear in a new format which is similar in size to the "Labour Organiser"—a get-up which has been found for many years to be particularly popular and convenient. The brilliant Group which provides these notes always succeed in presenting thoughtful and informative data and opinion on problems of current interest to the Socialist Movement.

Yet another copy of the Brecon and Radnor Bulletin is to hand. Our congratulations are again extended to Ald. Tudor Watkins for the contents. This is No. 76 and it occurs to us that the mass of information contained in the six pages would be a profound help to lots of comrades in other Divisions. We hope that following this suggestion some arrangement can be made which would enable "outsiders" to benefit by the excellent work which is here put in. We should imagine that live secretaries in other places would be glad

to spend a few coppers a month in order to be supplied with the varied information the Bulletin contains.

MEMBERSHIP, 1943. The New Year is an opportune time to review our membership and to pass resolutions to amend any deficiencies in our organisation and to re-dedicate ourselves afresh to Party work and programme. It is the best time to visit lapsed members, to revive the interest of apathetic members, and to enrol new members. "*Ye must—Start in Jerusalem*" is a very good motto, i.e., start with our own families to get them to join as individual members, and urge them to join their respective Trade Unions. The cry to-day is *for more Youth in our Movement*—we can only expect them from Socialist homes.

The above extract is from a circular issued to Labour Women Organisation in Wales by Mrs. Andrews. What strikes us also in the circular is the disclosure of how far ahead planning has been carried out and various important conferences fixed up. The Advisory Councils Joint Conference is for instance planned for 29th May in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Accompany the above document is a couple of Memoranda issued by the Labour Women's Advisory Councils in Wales. One of them is on housing and the other on post-war planning for women workers. The question of housing seems to have particular interest for Parties in South Wales and indeed it is from areas far away from London that we ourselves should look for inspiration in this matter.

For here it is, that the want for real houses is felt and expressed, for real homes, and real living accommodation and not the bare accommodation of a barracks. We have no objection to experiments with materials or design or even sizes, but we do want the workers' homes to remain homes; not that they shall develop into rabbit warrens, however grand and glorified these may be made, or imagined by people who have never lived in a "home" (but whom we should very much like to place in one).

East Lewisham, often to the front in organisational enterprise, send us a 4-page quarto message to members which was issued at Christmas time. There are four messages, these being from the Candidate, Tom Crawford (with photo), from the Party President, W. R. Owen, J.P., L.C.C., Lt. Listowell, L.C.C. and Mrs. M. Raisin, the acting Secretary of the Party, and the messages are worthy of the enterprise. The fourth page gives a programme of discussions which take place on alternate Mondays, under the auspices of the Local Party and the Fabian Society Discussion Group. The programme carries us up to May 3rd, and the following items are listed:—The Fundamentals of Socialism; The Labour Party Programme; The Atlantic Charter; Education in Socialist Russia; What is Happening in British Industry; The Future of Colonies; How Shall We Convince the Electorate?; How Our M.P. is Elected; What Can Socialists do in Local Government?

Truly a worthy programme.

The Brecon and Radnor Division, whose Bulletin we mentioned elsewhere, has been up to their pranks again (!) and a Christmas draw has handed in a profit of £142 for the election fund. As this was only a 3d. draw the results are amazing. The prizes were, however, first rate. There were 18 of them, ranging from a ton of something, through a choice of a £2 voucher, a goose, War Savings Certificates, utility lighters, down to a book priced at 2/6. We note that one seller disposed of £11 worth of tickets and another £10 5s. worth. The draw was also the medium for a distribution of a number of awards which consisted of a diary autographed by the Labour M.P. The promoter, Mr. R. L. Tippins (and the Party) should be congratulated on these results.

We have received two calendars for 1943 and two only: which goes to show that either ingenuity and enterprise are flagging, or that calendars are going out of fashion. We hope the latter is not the case, and we don't believe that the paper shortage altogether accounts for the disappearance.

We have the usual well-got-up and handy calendar of the Blackfriars Press, the printers of this journal, suited either for desk, wall or table—

and a perpetual reminder of good printing.

Newport, Mon., L.P. always issue a calendar, and this year they go one better. The almanac which, of course (must be sold to comply with the paper restrictions), contains a photograph of the Candidate, Peter Freeman, and a view of Westminster. It is a nice adornment to the home, and we have no doubt that they will soon all be sold, and, we hope, with a good profit.

Education and Socialist Theory

By J. P. M. MILLAR, Sec. N.C.L.C.

Every student of politics knows that the Socialist Movement has had and is having a great effect on politics. How marked that effect has been is illustrated, for example, in George Ridley's new Labour Party pamphlet, *Labour on the March*. The Socialist Movement has not only, however, had a great influence on political developments, and, of course, on industrial developments, but an equally great influence on social theory. Economics, history, and political geography, for example, have all been considerably affected by Socialist writers and thinkers. The reason for that is that the Labour Movement's struggle is not just a political struggle, or even a political and industrial struggle. It is also an educational struggle.

That is why the fact that the National Council of Labour Colleges is now celebrating its 21st birthday is of special interest to the political side of the Labour Movement as well as to the industrial side which largely finances it. One thousand paying members in a Labour Party are important, but they may not be so important as one hundred enthusiastic and intellectually well-equipped active workers in the Party.

Every Labour Agent knows that large numbers of Labour's political supporters confine their support to voting at election times and making an occasional financial contribution. It is very necessary, therefore, in order to strengthen the Labour Movement for its gigantic post-war tasks, to get such members more deeply interested. It is here that the N.C.L.C.'s classes and postal courses can be of considerable assistance. The course on Socialism

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REVIEWS

Frank Smith, M.P.: Pioneer and Modern Mystic. By E. I. Champness. Price 1/6. The Whitefriars Press, Ltd., 26 Bloomsbury Way, London, W.C.1.

One of the most charming stories of our times, and not equalled in interest for Socialists since William Stewart penned the biography of Keir Hardie.

And here as a frontispiece is Keir Hardie, and Frank, taken in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. For Keir and Frank were brothers in the faith, in good work and deeds, in aspirations, in inspirations, and in all they did in laying the foundations of the Movement that has grown to such gigantic size.

But Frank lived on after Keir: till just two years ago, when he died: and by his death the writer lost the best friend he ever knew, the whitest man, and the noblest, that ever he had met.

Miss Champness writes the "life" so admirably that we conjure up the original and see him at his fearless works. Indeed, Frank looks at us from the cover, just as he was. The story itself inspires and renews our faith in these, the saddest of all hours for all Socialist builders.

As befits the book the pages recall lots of Labour's history. Nor can any Socialist neglect to read it, and continue to believe that he has done his part, or that he *knows* the founders and their almost fanatical faith, as they should be known, to this and all future generations.

Local Parties! We urge you to send to the publishers and get a couple of dozen copies, which you can do, for 12/-, wholesale price. The cash profit is good, but the spiritual profit is immeasurable.

Readers can obtain single copies through a bookseller, or by sending 1/6 to the "Labour Organiser."

A Pocket History of the British Working Class. By Raymond Postgate. N.C.L.C. Publishing Society, Ltd., Tilllicoultry, Scotland.

The author and the N.C.L.C. have done a service to Democracy by the publication of this little book.

For how much of what matters in working-class history can we gather in any compact form from any other source? True we have Industrial Histories, the Webbs' great work on Trade Union History, and several Sidelights, but (as a fore-runner, we hope, to some bigger book solely devoted to the same subject) the author, in this ninety and nine pages, has accomplished a marvel.

There is nothing new under the sun, but when we see a lot of matter compacted under our nose, we sit up and take notice. We perceive a relativity, a sense of direction, new traits and attributes of the matter so presented. And there is so much the world doesn't know of the history of the British working class that that alone should make this book worthy.

As to what the world has forgotten, and needs to be reminded of, we note the author thoughtfully includes mention of Harry Pollitt's anti-war parliamentary fight at Silvertown and the whacking he got: thirteen to one. Although the history comes right down to 1942, we shall need a fresh edition each year to keep pace with some people's changes.

At the end of the book is a useful list of some of the main dates in the history of the Working Class Movement. The cost of the cheap edition is 2/-, 2/2 post free; of the cloth bound edition 3/6, 3/8 post free. Difficulties in ordering from booksellers can be got over by sending direct to The N.C.L.C., Tilllicoultry, Scotland. It should be mentioned that Raymond Postgate is a well-known Labour journalist and an authority on his subject. He was Editor of "Lansbury's Labour Weekly," and until recently Editor of the "Tribune." He is the author of a number of works, besides being one of the Editors of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica." He was the Editor of the well-known "Fact" series of pamphlets.

Labour on the March. By George Ridley, M.P.

Labour's Fight for the Old Folk — foreword by the Right Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P.

India—What Now and What Next? By George Ridley, M.P.

All the above pamphlets are priced to sell at 2d., post free 3d.; 12 copies 1/6; 100 copies, 12/-; and they add to Labour's armoury in the constituencies in no small degree.

Let us take first, "Labour on the March."

George Ridley is a doughty exponent, but the powerful foreword is unsigned by him as the pamphlet is. Yet the foreword reeks of Ridley (no offence and no pun) and is brilliantly written, both to claim attention and hold it.

Local Parties want a pamphlet like this. It is a convincing weapon and no less for the sympathiser and prospective member than for the sage old Socialist who wants his faith revived.

Rarely do we issue a challenge, but we would guarantee to sell four dozen at *any* meeting of a hundred persons or over. That is no idle boast. It is what Parties *should* do. The pamphlet is well got up—the good old red and gold—and while the stock lasts the orders for hundreds (at 12/- a time) should simply roll in and sell right away.

We don't speak so enthusiastically of Ridley's other pamphlet, for who *could* speak enthusiastically of India just now?

Yet you should stock and sell this pamphlet (which has a preface by the Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee, M.P.), because Labour's view *must* be put *now*. Moreover, the attractive get-up, art cover, almost sells itself. These pamphlets surely cannot be produced at the price. The purchaser is getting a fine bargain. Up then, and order in hundreds.

The third pamphlet, "Labour's Fight for the Old Folks" (in richest blue and 16 pp., including cover) bespeaks a shame and a blot on our national escutcheon. Yet isn't it Labour, and Labour always, that has borne the brunt? Let the people know, comrades, and sell this pamphlet, also, 12/- a hundred, like billy-ho. By selling it you'll aid the old folk; you may also draw some wanderers in.

We cannot resist saying that not even in Beveridge do the old folk get justice, nor anything like it. The fight is on then, and must keep on. Let the old folk, and the young ones, too, know what Labour has *done*: and its good intent for the future!

Labour Party Bulletin Guide to War Pensioners, Allowances and Grants. Price 2d. The Labour Party.

The latest issue of the Labour Party Bulletin takes the form of a guide to war pensions, allowances and grants. Notwithstanding the kaleidoscopic changes that take place in these matters, the guide will prove an invaluable book of reference to thousands of persons in the Party whose advice is sought upon these matters. If the Bulletin is preserved it will always provide a basis for future calculations, because changes in the rates of benefit, or in the procedure outlined, are to be regularly published in future issues of the Bulletin.

Twelve copies cost only 1/6 post free; 100 copies 12/- post free, while 1,000 copies for distribution are to be had for £5 10s. There are 24 pages in this special issue of the Bulletin and it is remarkable value.

Education and Socialist Theory

(Concluded from page 8)

would be of special value to many members, while those who are interested in Local Government will find that the N.C.L.C. has a course on Scottish Local Government and another on English Local Government. Again, Local Parties can often make use of members who are handy with their pens. The N.C.L.C. has a course on Labour Journalism. A good chairman is a great asset to any party. A good chairman needs to be familiar with the rules of chairmanship—another subject on which the N.C.L.C. has a course. There's no need to emphasise the importance of a course on Economics or on Political Geography and World Problems.

If you are interested in more details about the N.C.L.C.'s work, drop a line to J. P. M. Millar, General Secretary, National Council of Labour Colleges, whose war-time address is Tillicoultry, Scotland.

To a Correspondent

M.A.—To say that the actual form of, or nature, of the notices given of Party meetings affect the attendance, is to express a truism which every experienced organiser has found out for himself. But to indicate which is the best method of summoning meetings is beyond us, for, in our experience, every method seems at times to give poor results, besides which, what is successful in one place often seems no good in another.

It is a time-worn plan in some towns to have a regular date for meetings each month (the first or the second Saturday, the third Thursday, and so on). These fixtures are supposed to be like the laws of the Medes and Persians calling one on Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Empire Day, the King's Birthday, and all sorts of high days and holidays which all fools observe.

The result invariably is a breakdown, and frantic emergency announcements.

An improvement was to anticipate compulsory disturbances like the above and print a date list of meetings. This avoided the annoyance of trying to remember *which* Thursday or Saturday—first, second, third or fourth—for these things are ever a bugbear to remember.

In some towns where club membership is large, notices are given on the club notice board, but this is unsatisfactory and insufficient. One Party we know chalks its notices on the board outside, so that the world, at any rate, knows when our mighty forces are due to foregather, even if the delegates themselves forget.

Printed postcards are the commonest sort of notices, but the post goes astray or wives contrive, or familiarity breeds contempt; anyway, they don't always answer.

The best set of notices we ever saw was duplicated each month, and *posted*. There were six colours in paper—a different colour being used each month. The notices gave full particulars of business to be done and were sometimes very interesting. They pulled.

But in our experience, if interest is maintained, if meetings are effective, well conducted, finish to time, and give delegates a feeling of satisfaction, the latter will take care to know the next dates. The form of the notice won't matter.

"NATIONAL UNITY" —WHAT ?

"The Labour Movement in this country has taken the only logical and sensible road, viz., of agreeing to subordinate all internal conflicts, except those which can be resolved amicably until the war is won."

So wrote Arthur Woodburn, M.P., in a recent issue of "Forward."

And now perhaps Arthur will tell us just when that decision was come to, and by whom? And what is meant by "internal conflicts," anyway? Is the struggle of the workers an "internal conflict"? or isn't it? And isn't our friend reading far too much into the electoral truce and into co-operation with the Government for war purposes?

There are many people who would like a lot more than the truce implies—but they haven't got it yet; nor will they unless the majority in the Labour Party, definitely vote themselves, lock, stock and barrel into Mr. Churchill's tender mercies. This won't happen. But if it should—then goodbye to lots of persons and of things!

Tom Johnston, a pure and high-souled Socialist, whom we hold in highest esteem, also seems to have suffered from evil communications. He recently appealed for ten years' "national unity" after the war. Gosh, Tom, where would our Socialist hopes be at the end of that period—or our "leading" Socialists? If the war drums (the workers', I mean) are to cease, why not now and save our efforts?

For ourselves, and we believe, our readers, we will not cease from mental strife till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land. And there'll be no dashed "national unity" while we're doing that!

Incidentally, the "Daily Herald" struck a much more realistic note recently when it wrote in a leading article:

"What is this political truce, by the way? It is a pure fiction—a hypocritical distortion of the purposes of the electoral truce. The 'political' truce has been concocted by Diehard Tories for use as a Muzzling Order against Socialist speakers."

So that's that. It's a fine hearty declaration, and we endorse every word of it.

The Labour Party PUBLICATIONS LIST

Three New Pamphlets :

Post free Prices : 1 copy, 3d.; 12 copies, 1/6; 100 copies, 12/-.

“INDIA : WHAT NOW AND WHAT NEXT ?”

By George Ridley, M.P.

The object of this pamphlet, as the author says, “is to present the ordinary man and woman with an outline of the Indian problem, as objective and factual as possible.” The pamphlet deals first with the position in India after the 1935 Act, and then very fully with the White Paper proposals which Sir Stafford Cripps took to India, and with Labour’s policy, of which the proposals are in a great measure the expression.

“LABOUR ON THE MARCH”

By George Ridley, M.P.

This pamphlet is a “flashback” to the early days of Labour in Parliament and the struggle, begun then, and continued to the present day, for social security. It is a human story with a special appeal for the generation of to-day with its new horizons.

“LABOUR’S FIGHT FOR THE OLD FOLK”

This pamphlet, which carries a foreword by Arthur Greenwood, M.P., is a factual account of the consistent fight put up by the Parliamentary Party, from their formation in 1906 to the present day, on behalf of the aged.

REPORT OF LONDON CONFERENCE

One copy, 1/6; 6 copies, 8/-; 12 copies, 15/-; post free. 25 copies, 28/6; 50 copies, £2 16s.; 100 copies, £5 10s.; carriage forward.

All the above obtainable from:—

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